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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
MAINE LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION
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Memorandum

To: Commission Members
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CLUP Revision – Nature-Based Recreation and Eco-Tourism January 2005 Commission Meeting

At our last meeting in December, I gave you a brief tour of the 1997 Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reintroduce you to various parts of the CLUP and review some references to LURC's existing vision statement. We then generally discussed the meaning, purpose and composition of a successful vision.

Although we will continue to bring up the idea of a LURC vision, in the new year, we will begin focusing our discussions on specific issues facing the jurisdiction. Starting in January, we will host a series of panel discussions on the changing character of nature-based recreation in the North Woods. In preparation, would you please take a look at the following sections of the CLUP related to recreation:

- Chapter 3: Recreational Resources (p. 60-75)
- Chapter 5: Goals and Policies (p. 138)

You may also want to check out an interesting new web resource. The State recently hired Fermata (a consulting firm that focuses on helping organizations implement experiential tourism strategies) to create an economic development plan based on nature tourism. A portion of the company's web site (<http://www.fermatainc.com/maine>) is devoted specifically to the Maine project.

For the January 2005 meeting, we have invited four panelists - Jeff Rowe, Steve Spencer, Albro Cowperthwaite, and Matt Polstein - to share with you their experiences and thoughts on efforts to promote and manage recreational opportunities in the jurisdiction, what the future vision of the recreation/tourism enterprise looks like, and what challenges exist to meeting that vision. We have also asked the panelists to share their thoughts on what the Commission could do to maintain and enhance the nature-based recreational opportunities in the jurisdiction.

The format of the panel discussion will include a brief introduction to the topic, a 15 minute talk by each panelist, and approximately 45 minutes devoted to Commissioner questions and comments. I am optimistic that our featured speakers will stimulate dialogue and provide you with an important and unique perspective on this topic.

I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

AAP
